

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Bacchiochi: Measure Regulating Outdoor Wood-burning Furnaces Passes House



Legislation (House Bill 6773) cosponsored by state Representative Penny Bacchiochi, R-52nd District, that would regulate the installation and operation of outdoor wood-burning furnaces was approved by the state House of Representatives Saturday.

“Many Connecticut residents who live in rural communities use outdoor wood-burning furnaces to heat their homes or other structures or facilities on their properties,” Representative Bacchiochi said. “They were concerned about the lack of official state standards for outdoor wood-burning furnaces. Outdoor wood-burning furnaces installed prior to the effective date (October 1, 2005) of the bill would not be affected by the legislation.”

“The bill would set reasonable standards for residents who want to install and operate outdoor wood-burning furnaces after the law takes effect and prohibit units that do not comply with the regulations,” Representative Bacchiochi said.

If the bill becomes law, outdoor wood-burning furnaces installed after it takes effect would have to:

- Be installed at least 200 feet from the nearest home not heated by the furnace.
- Be equipped with chimneys shorter than 55 feet but at least as tall as the roof peaks of homes located within 500 feet of the furnace, and not heated by it.
- Burn only wood that has not been chemically treated.
- Be installed and operated according to the manufacturer’s written instructions, provided the instructions comply with the standards set forth in the bill.

The bill defines an outdoor wood-burning furnace as an accessory structure or appliance designed to be located outside of a home which provides heat through the burning of wood to the residence or to another structure or appliance on the property, or is used to heat domestic water, or water used in a swimming pool, hot tub, or Jacuzzi. Fire pits,

wood-fired barbecues, or decorative fireplaces ("chiminea") also are exempt from the bill's regulatory provisions.